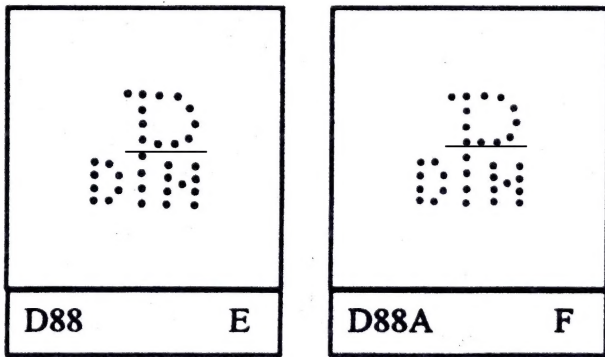


D88 – D88A – Counterpoint

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After studying John Lyding's article in the November/December 2002 Bulletin (p. 129), I spent a lot of time studying my duplicate copies of perfin designs D88 and D88A (DHP). I also found connected copies and commemoratives similar to those than John used to illustrate his article. When I overlaid all of my copies on the photos in the Catalog of United States Perfins none of them matched D88A. There were a large number of holes which didn't match that pattern.

With my computer scanner I produced a copy of the catalog photos at twice their normal size. Focusing on the letter 'P', the differences in the spacing of the holes is very apparent. At this size comparison of the Ps shows that the P in pattern D88A is much smaller (neither as tall or as wide) than the P in pattern D88. At any scale one can see major differences between the two designs.



The holes in the lower horizontal leg of the 'P' in the D88A design line up with the vertical leg. I've placed a horizontal line at this location in both designs.

I further studied the stamps issues in which both designs were found. Most of my copies of D88 are in stamps issued from the late 1930s to the early 1960s. The D88A design is was found in stamps issued from the late 1900's to the early 1930s. This

agrees with the usage dates provided in the US catalog (D88 – "1926-65 vs. D88A – "1908-33).

The 4¢ Water Conservation commemorative that John showed was issued in 1960. D88A has never previously been reported in a stamp issue of this late a date. All of my copies of D88A are in stamps issued before 1933.

I believe that focusing on the top leg of the letter P has shown a die variety of D88 produced by the minor variations of dies in a multi-die perforator. Based on my study of all my duplicate D88s, this pattern appears to have been produced by a multi-die perforator with more than two heads. However, the differences between D88 and D88A are not minor.

I am convinced by my study that a multi-head perforator produced pattern D88, and pattern D88A was not one of the dies on that multi-die head. Let's leave the final determination of this issue to the US Catalog Editor.

Editor's Note: I agree with the last suggestion – please send further comments to Richard Learn (see last page) and let his be the last word.